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Soundings

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THE LORD BE WITH YOU

by L. Paul Bartling

In the absence of our Bishop, who is now traveling in Russia leading an ecumenical delegation from Seattle to our sisters and brothers in St. Petersburg, our editor has requested that I share a word with you in this May/June issue of "Soundings".

The familiar words of the salutation, "The Lord be with you", which we speak in the dialogue greeting each Sunday before we begin our worship, and which are repeated before we pray the Prayer of the Day, and again before we share in the Holy Communion, are recalled with fresh insight as I write these words on the eve of Christ's Ascension. "The Lord be with you." Beautiful in its brevity and centrality, this prayer, hallowed by liturgical repetition, sums up the mystery of the Ascension.

The Ascension is an image-filled expression of the miracle of the Lord's continuing presence. The Ascension is not a farewell and an ending. It is the beginning of Jesus' full, glorified presence in all time and space. Christ exalted at the Father's right hand promises to be with his followers in a new way. His physical absence makes possible a new form of presence, a presence which fills the whole world. But how is that to be accomplished?

You and I are witnesses to that presence. The Lord's Spirit of Pentecost poured out in our heart empowers us to think, speak, and act, so that those who share our daily lives see that the Lord is in our midst. Joined to Christ in our baptism, we say with St. Paul, "I live now, yet not I, but Christ lives in me." We make clear that the Lord is always present through us.

I am mindful how during the summer months many of us, together with members of our congregations, will scatter and travel to the four corners of the earth and enjoy an extended holiday visiting new and strange places. In turn, in our homes and parishes, we will play hosts to a constant stream of visitors and guests. Also, some of our family members will be graduating, while others in our synodical family, including our synod secretary, Linda Larson, will be bidding us "farewell".

With you, I share a deepened sense of excitement and anticipation as we plan for this year's synod assembly, with its evangelism theme, *Wet People in a Thirsty World.* It is my prayer that we experience the reality of Christ's presence in our gathering together, and that we re-discover what can happen in our Church when a group of God-intoxicated, Spirit-filled people move out of secluded and protected "upper rooms" into the community to bring God's peace, healing, and life to others.

Mindful that Christ is with us as we are witnesses to his presence in all of our ventures, I wish you a blessed Christ-filled summer. **The Lord be with you!**

NEWS

NEWS FROM THE ELCA

Recently we have received several news articles of interest:

ELCA ENDS FISCAL YEAR WITH BALANCE

The ELCA ended fiscal year 1991 with income exceeding expenses by $768,401. This is the first time since the ELCA began operations in 1988 that it has ended the year with a balanced budget. In addition, giving to world hunger surpassed expectations by $750,000, with receipts of $12 million.

A major factor in the balanced budget was a special appeal which generated more than $1.5 million in contributions. The churchwide organization also exercised considerable fiscal restraints during 1991, holding spending to $2.9 million less than the year before. Those reductions "meant less support for key ministries, including the human services needed most during a difficult economic period," commented Bishop Herbert Chilstrom.

Total income, including world hunger receipts, was down from $92.1 million in 1990 to $91.4 million in 1991. Income from congregations passed on to the churchwide organization through synods was $64,861,000 in 1991, compared to $65,924,000 in 1990. The special offering brought congregational giving in 1991 to $66.3 million.

"Everywhere we see the impact of the recession in our country, and the church is no exception. I am grateful for the faithful support for all the ministries of the church that ELCA members express through their offerings Sunday by Sunday, in good times and bad," Chilstrom said.

ELCA PLANS MEGACHURCH

The ELCA Division for Outreach has announced plans to develop a regional or "megachurch" to reach people, especially those in the "baby boomer" generation, who are looking for something different from what traditional Lutheran churches have been providing.

This megachurch is being designed to attract large numbers of the unchurched with contemporary and other forms of worship; with programs in spiritual formation--including prayer, Bible study, and catechetical instruction--and with groups to deal with "dysfunctional elements of life."

Plans call for the first such experiment to begin this year in Yorba Linda, California. A second is planned for 1993. It is anticipated that these congregations could have as many as 300 to 500 members in a year, and eventually between 3,000 and 5,000 members.

The staff of the Division for Outreach emphasized that the "megachurch" proposal is only one of 28 models used for starting new congregations, and that they are aware that this is not the type of church that should be developed in every locale. The plans for the experimental congregations grew out of studies that show growing congregations are ones which "provide optional forms of worship," reported M. L. Minnick, Division Director. These include a weekly celebration of the Eucharist using traditional worship resources and contemporary forms of worship without the Eucharist, as well as opportunities for "seekers to hear about the Christian faith and to receive the invitation to become a part of the Christian community," very much like "evangelistic crusades in which the Gospel is presented along with an invitation to participate."

Minnick emphasized that these megachurches being planned are experiments, and that funding for the first two congregations is coming from a Lutheran Brotherhood grant. After an evaluation, it will be decided if additional funding might be made available to start two more megachurches.

ELCA CONSIDERS EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

The ELCA could get involved in the national debate on educational choice. This was one of several topics the board of the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools tackled at its last meeting. "Educational choice" refers to options federal and state governments are considering or testing which allow families to use vouchers or some other system to fund the elementary education of their children at any public school, at any non-religious school, or at any school.

"There are theological arguments for both sides of the debate. It is 'theologically responsible' for the church to teach the Gospel and to be accessible in the midst of the world," said the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, board chair. On the other hand, he said, "the role of the church can be seen as, in the name of Jesus, being advocates for the system that is providing the greatest good for the greatest number of people--the public system."

Bouman's personal opinion reflected that dilemma. "I would be in favor of limited experiments of educational choice in controlled situations, especially in neighborhoods where the ELCA says it wants to be--among the poor, among people of color and primary language other than English. At the same time, I share a great fear that choice will see schools springing up all over the place where people want to avoid integration. I would hope we could come to some way of helping guide people who find themselves on either side of the issue, to get some support from their church and some understanding of why others feel differently."

MORE ELCA NEWS

CARL BRAATEN OPENS CENTER

A Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology has been established in Northfield, Minn., at the home of the Rev. Carl Braaten, an ELCA theologian. The center will aim to create a network of ecumenically oriented scholars from the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Protestant traditions. Braaten, who teaches at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, will edit the center's quarterly journal, "Pro Ecclesia." The chief goal of the center will be to promote faithfulness throughout the church to the Word of God in Jesus Christ.

JOHNNY CARSON SUPPORTS LUTHERAN HOSPITAL

NBC and its affiliates gave Johnny Carson an $80,000 retirement present. The talk show host chose to give it away to the radiation center at Lutheran Community Hospital in his hometown of Norfolk, Nebraska. Carson is retiring May 22 after 30 years as host of the NBC "Tonight" show.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NEWS

The Department of World Service of LWF reports that the Russian food aid program is now in place and being implemented. Some 660 tons of food, comprising the equivalent of 66,000 family packets and, in some cases, bulk commodities to institutions, have been delivered to Moscow and distributed by an inter-church committee comprised of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Baptist and Lutheran churches, as well as the Armenian, Ukrainian and Georgian Orthodox churches.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD WINS IMPORTANT VICTORY OVER FAMINE

A dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy to Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia was marked as President Bush signed into law the Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act on April 21. The law directs the U.S. to increase grassroots development and peacekeeping efforts and renounces the use of military solutions in the region.

The legislative victory resulted from an extensive campaign by the anti-hunger organization, BREAD FOR THE WORLD. The group's network of 44,000 members and a thousand parishes and churches of all denominations sent over 100,000 letters to Congress calling for passage of the bill. These efforts have also been instrumental in shaping the U.S. role in helping to mediate peace talks in the Horn of Africa.

The Horn of Africa Act provides no new money for the region. Rather, it directs U.S. assistance away from military purposes and into the hands of grassroots development initiatives that help the poorest of the poor. The bill prohibits aid to governments that do not demonstrate a commitment toward peace, democracy and human rights. The bill also calls on the U.S. to significantly increase support for U.N. efforts in peace negotiations and relief.

(Ethiopian church leaders, including those from our Companion Synod, the Northern Work Area Mekane Yesus, have asked Lutheran World Relief and the international community for immediate assistance for food, as well as to assist in peace negotiations. The worst dought in 100 years continues, and the media has lessened their coverage of this severe situation.)

PROTESTANT HOUR DEBUTS NEW FORMAT

After 47 years on the air, the "new" Protestant Hour began broadcasts the week of May 10. The new format involves the speakers in more informal discussion, capitalizes on the ecumenical nature of the program, and complements the message with a broader variety of Christian music.

The Protestant Hour offers a weekly combination of inspirational messages and music from the ELCA, as well as from the United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA) and Episcopal churches. Each of the four denominations will have at least one program every month, in the new format, rather than all programs for a quarter of the year. The ecumenical diversity is meant to help the program be more of an evangelism tool for the churches. Listeners are not given to believe that the Protestant Hour is the program of a given church body.

In the Seattle area, the Protestant Hour is aired Sundays on KIRO 710 AM at 6:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

At its May meeting, the Synod Council adopted a policy statement on continuing education drafted by a subcommittee of the Leadership Support Committee. Under the policy statement, the Northwest Washington Synod expects congregations and other employing entities to follow the ELCA guidelines and the synod compensation guidelines for continuing education for pastors and associates in ministry. (continued next page)

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY (cont.)

The ELCA expects a minimum of 25 hours annually in organized continuing education. The policy statement encourages congregations and employing entities to provide, in addition to vacation time, two weeks of continuing education for their pastors/AIMs, which may be accumulated up to six weeks with prior approval. The policy also encourages congregations and other employing entities to provide at least $500 annually for continuing education, and pastors/AIMs to contribute at least $250 towards that continuing education.

The policy statement also recognizes the mutual benefits and responsibilities of continuing education. Therefore, pastors/AIMs are expected to consult with their congregations or employing entities in developing continuing education covenants, and to provide reports back regarding their experiences.

The policy statement also provides that congregations and employing entities will be advised to consider the continuing education records of candidates as part of the call/appointment process.

REVISIONS IN SYNOD COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

The Synod Executive Committee approved revisions to page 3 of the synod compensation guidelines, specifically relating to payment of social security tax and enrollment in the ELCA pension and health benefits plan. Please call the synod office to obtain a copy of the new page 3 of the compensation guidelines.

PLAN EARLY FOR SUMMER VACATIONS!

When you have need for pulpit supply during staff vacation, illness, or other emergency, please call the synod office for our current list of persons willing to serve in this capacity.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY LITANY FOR CONGREGATIONS

Congregations are asked to use this litany on **June 7**, the Sunday before our Synod Assembly:

Gracious God, thank you for your Holy Spirit who gathers us together in the church. We remember today the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and especially our Northwest Washington Synod, which meets in Assembly June 12-13. Thank you for the leadership of Bishop Lowell Knutson and his assistant, Paul Bartling, the synod officers and members of the Synod Council, and the many volunteers who work faithfully for our synod. Fill this Assembly with your Spirit, empowering our synod to be faithful in its mission.

MISSION90 UPDATE

The second Bible Ventures booklet, **Bible Ventures 2** (Augsburg Fortress, code 15-8870, $2.50) is off the press. This resouce is similar in look and form to the first volume that was so widely used throughout the ELCA. A third volume will be available around January 1, 1993.

MISSION 90
SEE+GROW+SERVE

For those who have used MISSION90 resources as they were introduced, they are now in the SERVE mode of the SEE-GROW-SERVE theme. The "care of creation" theme is carried out in the **"Our Children at Risk: Hope for Our Future Together"** (Augsburg Fortress, code 15-9009, $5.95). Also, the Outdoor Ministry curriculum, the Parish Education Packet, and the Vacation Bible School materials for 1993 will all carry a "care of creation" theme.

The Division for Church in Society is in the beginning stages of the formation of a social statement on the environment. The first draft is off the press and is entitled, **"Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice."** This piece can be ordered from the ELCA Distribution Service (67-1223) for postage and handling.

"Mission90—Gateway to the Future" has been a valuable resource to use in interpreting MISSION90. There are still some copies of this brochure available on a first come, first served basis from the Division for Congregational Ministries by calling 1-800-NET-ELCA, ext. 2582.

BYBERG HOMILETIC FUND GRANTS AWARDED

The Byberg Homiletic Fund Committee, which serves under the authority of Bishop Paul Swanson of the Oregon Synod, is pleased to announce that the following pastors from our synod were recently awarded individual study grants:

Elten Zerby	$275
Maynard Atik	$162
Jim Stender	$162
Jon Magnuson	$200

As stipulated by the bequest of the Byberg Homiletic Fund, the goal of all individual study projects must be the development and enhancement of preaching skills. The next deadline for submitting a financial grant request for an individual study project is next Ash Wednesday, February 24, 1993. All requests should be mailed to Bishop Paul Swanson, Oregon Synod, 2801 N Gantenbein, Portland, OR 97227-1674.

The Byberg Committee would also like to announce that the Byberg Homiletic Fund will sponsor two workshop-retreats within the next year. The first one will feature Pastor **Sheldon Tostengard** from Luther Northwestern

(continued next page)

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BYBERG HOMILETIC FUND (cont.)

Theological Seminary, and an unconfirmed second presenter. This first workshop-retreat is scheduled for **October 29-31, 1992**, at Camp Lutherhaven near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The second one is at the Christian Renewal Center near Silverton, Oregon, on **February 1-3, 1993**.

Because of technical difficulties, audio tapes are available for some, but not all of the presentations and proclamations from the recent Byberg Preaching Workshop Retreat. For a complete listing of the tapes which are available, please contact Wally Gustav, 38042 River Dr, Lebanon, OR 97355, or call (503) 258-3111.

CHURCH LIABILITY INSURANCE

Recently the ELCA made a change in the relationship with its insurance broker. The change affects about 30% of the ELCA churches. In an effort to offer the best service, the ELCA has changed insurance brokers from Frank B. Hall Company to the Arthur J. Gallagher Company. Basic property, casualty and liability coverage is still with the Atlantic Mutual Company.

Each congregation has the responsibility for arranging its own coverage. A suggestion is made that when it is time to renew coverage, a telephone call be made to 1-800-352-2761 for service and further information before making a decision.

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS JOIN AIDS MINISTRY

Central and **Denny Park Lutheran Churches** have joined area Catholic and Episcopal churches in an ecumenical fellowship of congregations in AIDS ministry. Named "The Fellowship of Raphael the Archangel," the organization is working to improve the living conditions of people with AIDS by providing housing and direct support. The Fellowship is seeking sponsors for transitional housing units for people with special needs, and invites the participation of congregations from all faith communities.

Contact Mark Catuska at 443-9521 for more information.

WEST SEATTLE HIV+/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

A new support group for HIV+ people and those close to them meets at St. James Lutheran Church, 9421 - 18 Ave SW in White Center. The group meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, call Seattle AIDS Support Group at 322-AIDS.

PLTS OPENS HYMN COMPETITION

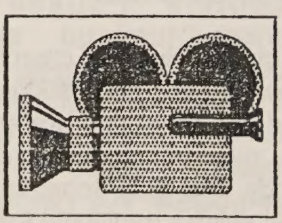
Creative people are invited to submit entries in a **Seminary Hymn Competition** being sponsored by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, in connection with its 40th Anniversary celebration. Hymn entries must be recieved by **August 15**.

Basic requirements include originality, singability, and consistency with the mission statement of the seminary. Verse for an already existing tune will be accepted. A complete setting of the hymn is desirable, but not required. The chosen hymn will be sung at the seminary's 40th Anniversary Founders Day festivities on September 22-23. The hymn writer or writers will be guests of the seminary for the festivities, and will receive a $200 certificate for PLTS-sponsored continuing education.

Complete details are available from the Office of Seminary Advancement, 2770 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708-1597. Entries in the hymn competition should be sent to the attention of Donna Nicholson.

FILM DOCUMENTARY ON VIETNAM VETS PREMIERES

Religious Broadcasting Commission (RBC) and KOMO-TV joined forces to produce ***Out of the Night***, a film documentary on the spiritual journey of Vietnam vets. It will premiere on KOMO-TV (channel 4) on **Sunday, June 21 at 7 p.m.**. The film, based on a book of the same name by William Mahedy, portrays the spiritual and emotional struggles of those who fought in Southeast Asia. It's a story of disillusionment and loss of faith. And it's a story of reconciliation and healing.



Dick Foley, host of Northwest Afternoon on KOMO-TV, narrates ***Out of the Night***, and highlights vets who tell of their journey in their own words. Several local vets are featured in the film. RBC Executive Director J. Graley Taylor, produced, filmed, and edited the program. KOMO-TV funded the cost of film, processing, and film to video transfers.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER VISITS TO HOLDEN VILLAGE

Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. At Holden you join people of diverse backgrounds and interests in becoming a community of renewal and challenge. On a summer day the village is alive with over 400 people participating in their program. Besides the wonderful teaching staff who offer daily sessions, Holden offers you beautiful mountain scenery, hiking, crafts, worship, interesting people from all over the country and world, and the time and space to be with the Creator and creation.

HOLDEN VILLAGE
CHELAN, WASHINGTON 98816

Holden still has registration space available for guests for the first 3 weeks of June, August 22-31, and all of September (Elderhostel sessions will be held September 1-12, and village guests are welcome to participate.) For registration information, write to the Registrar, Holden Village, Chelan, WA 98816.

HUNGER EDUCATION VIDEO AVAILABLE

Recognizing that environmental degradation is one of the root causes of world hunger, a new video titled ***Wake Up Dorothy*** seeks to reach upper elementary children and junior high youth with a message about environmental stewardship. The story shows the effects of human carelessness on the natural environment, and contrasts the sinful attitudes of arrogance, ignorance and greed with responsible Christian stewardship. Contact the Region I A/V center to borrow a copy.

INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES AND DANCES

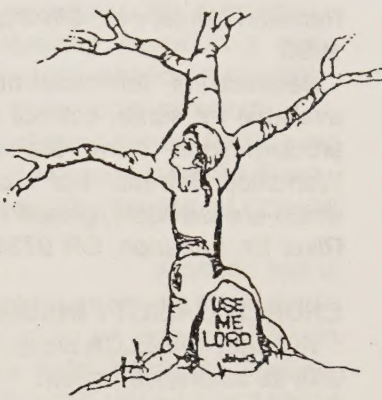
Here is a great event for your church picnic or church get-together. Enjoy this program of **"Intergenerational Games and Dances"** presented by Ming and Karen Schneider-Chen. Learn some new non-competitive, cooprative games that everybody can play together. Experience the joy of dancing and singing traditional folk melodies from all around the world.

For information and arrangements to schedule the games and dances in your church, contact Marc Stroud at Lutheran Social Services, (206) 672-6009.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL

Congregations should have registration materials for this annual training event for youth, **LTS '92**. Each congregation may send up to three young people entering grades 9-12 and one adult, to this practical, "hands-on" training which will equip them with skills and resources to strengthen or start youth ministry in their congregation. Under the theme, **"Use Me, Lord!"**, LTS is of greatest value to high schoolers who are currently active in youth ministry. *Everyone attending from one congregation must attend the same LTS.*



LTS dates are **LTS-East, August 14-17** at Whitworth College in Spokane, and **LTS-West, August 20-23** at Lutheran Bible Institute, Issaquah. A new feature this year is **LTS II**, a second step in youth leadership training for young people who have completed LTS I. LTS II will be held in conjunction with LTS-East and LTS-West, and will include special workshops and leadership opportunities. LTS II participants will be expected to come one day early for orientation and training.

Questions? For LTS-East call Karen Bates, (509) 928-7733 or Alan Harbine, (509) 467-5256; for LTS-West, call Sandra Kreis, (206) 863-5171.

WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING VIDEO AVAILABLE

It's out, it's hot, it's fun! It's in Missoula, Montana, in the summer of 1993. A lively, fast-paced musical promotional video telling about the upcoming Western States Youth Gathering is now available for your youth group to see. Spectacular footage of "Big Sky" country, servant events, Gathering speakers and musicians, and recreational opportuniites are all woven together in this video. **Heather Clauson** of **Nativity Lutheran Church, Renton**, helped produce the video.

If you thought the last gathering in Santa Clara was great, wait until you see and hear about this! It may seem a long way off, but now is the time to start planning for Western States! Contact the Region 1 A/V center at 624-0093 to borrow a copy of the video,

CONTINUING EDUCATION

LITE SUMMER EVENTS

LITE's summer calendar is filling up! Please note the following events, and try to work them into your summer plans: **July 12-16—Summer Institute of Theology** at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, featuring **Tom Sine, Marie Fortune,** and **Daniel Simundson,** under the theme, "Heal the Sick...Ministry in a Hurting World"; **July 26-28—Summer Institute at Concordia College,** Portland, featuring **John Furguson** from St. Olaf under the theme, "The Church's Song...How to Choose, Present and Celebrate Music Among God's People."

LITE Lutheran Institute for Theological Education in the Pacific Northwest

Contact the LITE office at (206) 535-7342 to register for these programs.

LIFE ENRICHMENT EDUCATION

A one-day introductory workshop sponsored by the Life Enrichment Education Program of Lutheran Social Services will highlight the **Enneagram Personality Theory,** a useful tool for self-understanding and human relationships. The strengths and weaknesses of the nine personality types of Enneagram will be explained in a one-day seminar on **Friday, July 10,** from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Seattle University. cost for the presentation is $45.00.

For more information and registration, contact Marc Stroud at LSS, (206) 672-6009.

HERE'S A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!

A fantastic continuing education opportunity, **a raft trip down the Snake River,** will combine a thrilling ride, collegial camaraderie, and the chance to hone homiletical skills. This opportunity is being offered by the Idaho Institute of Christian Education on **July 12-14.** The cost including four meals is $160 per person. Leader for this floating preaching seminar is the Rev. Prof. **Don Llebert,** member of Whitworth College faculty and New Testament scholar, whose academic work has focused on I Corinthians.

The number of participants is limited to 28. To register, send your check to Idaho Institute of Christian Education, 822 Elm Street, Moscow, ID 83843, or call (208) 882-2536. **Deadline to register is June 14.**

SUMMER INSTITUTE AT AUGSBURG COLLEGE

The Lutheran Human Relations Association of America (LHRAA) will hold their 1992 Summer Institute **July 24-26** at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., under the theme, **"Remembering the Covenant: Between the Times".** The theme will address the underlying issues of the 500-year anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas, the interconnections of the oppression of many people resulting from that event, and God's word of hope and promise for justice.

Cost for registration, housing and meals is $165. Contact LHRAA at (414) 871-7300.

ANNUAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE AT LNTS

Am I called? Do I have the gifts? What does a pastor do? What do I have to do to prepare for the ministry? Will there be a job for me as a second-career person?

Try to find answers for these questions at the annual conference, **"At My Age?",** offered **July 24-26,** co-sponsored by Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. This national conference provides an opportunity to explore pastoral ministry as a second career with people who can help sort out the questions and provide specific and concrete answers.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at LNTS, (612) 641-3521.

FELLOWSHIP OF RECOVERING LUTHERAN CLERGY EVENT

The Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy (FRLC) is a network of pastors sharing their experience, strength, and hope as they recover from chemical dependency. The fellowship is open to all Lutheran clergy recovering from chemical dependency, regardless of synodical or church body affiliations.

The first annual FRLC retreat has been scheduled for **August 6-8** at the Center for Development in Ministry, University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL 60060. Register before July 6 to avoid a late fee. Send registrations to Rev. Donald Busboom, P O Box 219, Clayton, IL 62324.

MORE CONTINUING ED

MEN'S RETREAT

On **September 11-13**, 50-60 men will gather again on the cliffs of Whidbey Island overlooking the waters of Puget Sound. Pastor **Charles (Chuck) Davis**, storyteller for the ***Gathering for Men*** in Lynnwood, will facilitate the retreat. The topic is **"Celebrate Male Spirit"**. Registrations are now being received. Brochures are available from the sponsor, Counseling Associates, (206) 778-8622.

WORKSHOPS ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE MINISTERIAL RELATIONSHIP

Our synod is not immune from the problem of sexual misconduct by church leaders within the professiional relationship. Education will help us prevent and deal with the issue. The Rev. **Marie Fortune**, Executive Director of the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence says,

Our religious institutions are in a crisis of credibility as more and more cases of professional misconduct by clergy are disclosed. The consequences are overwhelming: more and more lawsuits, loss of insurance coverage, people leaving our congregations. We can respond to this challenge if we are prepared to do so. Our good intentions are not enough. An effective response requires training and new awareness.

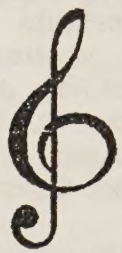
In order to help prevent sexual abuse in the ministerial relationship, our synod will be providing workshops at various times and locations between fall, 1992, and spring, 1993. Bishop Lowell Knutson expects every pastor and associate in ministry on the roster of our synod to attend one of these workshops. The dates are as follows: **Sept 21-22, Nov 20-21, January 19-20, March 18-19**. Please pencil these dates in on your calendar. More information, including locations, will follow in future mailings.

The workshops will be taught by Pastors **Jim Rismiller and Kathy Hawks**, who have been trained by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence. You will gain an in-depth understanding of the issues of sexual abuse by clergy and other church leaders within the professional relationship. Issues such as identification of situations of abuse, intervention where complaints have occurred, and prevention strategies will be discussed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALLING "CHOIR OF THE WEST" GRADS!

Come and help celebrate the retirement and outstanding career of **Dr. Maurice Skones,** who directed the PLU Choir of the West from 1963 to 1982. A final retirement concert, with Dr. Skones directing over 300 Choir of the West alumni, has been planned for **May 31** at 4:00 p.m. in Olson Auditorium on the PLU campus. Tickets will be $5.00 at the door.



In addition, the Dr. Maurice Skones Vocal Scholarship Fund is being established which will award two vocal scholarships per year to outstanding students.

For more information, contact Deuane Kuenzi at 8222 Bridgeport Way SW, Tacoma, WA 98499, or call (206) 984-1093.

HEARING ON THE HUMAN SEXUALITY STUDY

Be sure to reserve **Saturday, June 6,** on your calendar for an opportunity to express your opinion on the ELCA Study on Human Sexuality, ***Human Sexuality and the Christian Faith***. This hearing is an opportunity for you to tell the task force what you think should be included in the ELCA statement on human sexuality, which will be published at a later date. This is a time for you to express either the collective opinion of your congregation or group, or your own personal opinions. All opinions will be heard by the task force representative, and will be carried back to the full task force for further study and dialogue.

The hearing will take place at **St. John Lutheran Church**, 5515 Phinney Ave N (across from the west entrance to the Woodland Park Zoo), Seattle, from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. The ending time is flexible, so that all may be heard.

If you have questions about the hearing, please call Michael Clifford, 258-2955, or Nancy Winder, 523-9636.

CELEBRATE A VISION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

You are invited to attend a multi-cultural ecumenical Pentecost celebration, **"Discovering the Gifts of Unity"**, on **June 7** at 3:00 p.m. at **Immanuel Lutheran Church**, 1215 Thomas St., Seattle. Planned and hosted by the churches of the Parish Partnership Program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, all are invited to come celebrate a vision of Christian unity.

MORE EVENTS

BENEFIT ORGAN CONCERT

You are invited to hear **Anthony Willing** perform an organ concert to benefit **Pathways for Women** on Sunday, **June 7** at 4:00 p.m. at **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**, 84th Ave W and 212th St SW, in Edmonds. Tony will offer renditions of some of his favorite classics by Bach, Frank, Purcell, DuBois, and others. Lovers of organ music will find this concert memorable indeed.

Pathways for Women is an organization which provides temporary housing and care-giving. There will be a free will offering to help make the dream of a new building become a reality. Refreshments will conclude the concert.

FESTIVAL FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

There is a special event taking place in our synod during the same time as our synod assembly. Everyone not attending the assembly is encouraged to attend the **LWR FEST**, an open house on **June 12** from 7 to 9 p.m. at the **Radisson Airport Hotel**, 17001 Pacific Hwy So, near SeaTac.

The LWR Fest is a rare opportunity to hear directly from LWR staff who are coordinating relief and long-term development projects in 35 countries. Also in attendance will be **Theresa Masinde** from Kenya, **Noemi de Espinoza** from Honduras, and **Shshant Agrawal** from India. They represent overseas "partners" through whom LWR renders aid to many in our world who are in need because of natural disasters, civil wars, or political upheval.

LWR FEST

There will be videos and slides showing some of these projects, as well as displays of quiltmaking, soap, school kits, health kits and sewing kits that are being supplies by women of the NWWA Synod.

Dr. Norman Barth, LWR Executive Director, will also speak to our synod assembly in Everett. Dr. **Robert Marshall**, former LCA bishop, is president of the Board. The NWWA Synod is pleased that LWR is having this meeting and special event in our area, and we hope that many of our congregational members will take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn more about this important ministry.

For more information, call Ken or Ruth Helling, local LWR Key Leaders, at 285-6962.

CHAPEL DEDICATION AT COMPASS CENTER

The public is invited to attend the dedication of a new chapel and an open house at Compass Center, 77 S Washington, Seattle, on **Sunday, June 28,** at 2:00 p.m. The chapel will provide a special place of worship for the homeless of downtown Seattle.

ELCA GLOBAL MISSION EVENTS

One last reminder of the 1992 ELCA **Global Mission Events** scheduled for **July 9-12** at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania; **July 16-19** at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, California; and **July 23-26** at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

The theme for the three-day events is ***Sing a New Song--Missions in the Americas***. Speakers will include **Dr. Wanda Deifelt**, Sao Leopolda, Brazil, and **Dr. Douglas John Hall**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Registration deadline is June 15. Contact your church office for details, or call the synod office.

COMPANION SYNOD EVENT

Your Companion Synod Committee is hosting a **"Festival of Friendship"** potluck dinner to celebrate our synod's relationship with the Northern Work Area of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. We have invited two of the Ethiopian congregations located in Seattle to join us. Tentatively scheduled are short talks from members of the Ethiopian congregations, music, and lots of food! Please join us on **Saturday, August 8** from 4 to 7 p.m. at **Bethel of Shoreline Lutheran Church**, 17418 - 8th NE, Seattle.

Please RSVP to Gail Amos at 488-9381, Fred or Yvonne Robbins at 365-4996, or Mararet Culbertson, 337-3380.

WANT ADS

DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT

A full-time position is open at **Lutheran Social Services**, responsible for annual campaign including direct mail appeals, phonathon, special events, major gift solicitation, and development of endowment fund. Send resume to LSS, Suite K, 6920-220 St SW, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043.

MORE WANT ADS

BUSINESS MANAGER

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, is currently looking for a new 2/3-time business manager to handle church finances and records. Flexible working hours, Send resume and letter of recommendation to Church Council President Marty Derksema, Trinity Lutheran Church, 6211-196 SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036 **by May 24**. For more information, call Pastor Rouse at 778-2159.

CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonds, is seeking a **Director of Choirs**, a salaried posiiton involving planning and leadership of the existing adult choir for two Sunday morning and occasional weekday services, with mid-week rehearsals between September 1 and the end of the school year. They are also ready to expand to a bell choir and children's choirs. Applicants must be willing to work in a team ministry setting, which incudes monthly and quarterly meetings. Submit resume **by June 15** to Christ Lutheran Church, 23525-84 Ave W, Edmonds, WA 98026 or call (206) 778-2189.

Central Lutheran Church, Seattle, a small congregation located in a diverse neighborhood on Seattle's Capitol Hill, has a position open for a **Choir Director**, starting in September. They have a tradition in Lutheran worship and an openness to the greater community of God. The successful applicant for this part-time position will have a strong grounding in western European liturgical music and choral music practice and development; an interest in contemporary, "justice", and non-European heritages; and a flexibility to work within a diverse community. Send resume and letter of interest to Worship Committee, Central Lutheran Church, 1710-11th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122.

Faith Lutheran Church, Bellingham, is searching for a **Choir Director** who is NOT a member of the congregation. The hope is to fill the position by mid-summer. Send resume and cover letter to Choir Director Search Committee, Faith Lutheran Church, 2750 McLeod Rd, Bellingham, WA 98225-1399.

ORGANIST POSITIONS

Cross of Christ, Bellevue, is seeking applicants for an **Organist**. Duties include service playing (60%), accompanying Senior Choir (Thursday evening) September-June, plus occasional other leadership opportunities coordinated with the Director of Music. Applicants should be familiar with a variety of musical styles, flexible, and knowledgeable of current trends in Lutheran worship. Salary approximately $6,000. Deadline for applications is **May 29**. Send resume to Wes Harris, Worship and Music Administrator, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bellevue, WA 98007.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue, is creating a new position for **Principal Organist** to start in the fall, 1992. The Principal Organist would play a new 1992 17 rank Reuter pipe organ for two Sunday morning worship services for 500+ worshippers, also possible Thursday choir rehearsal. Send resume to Organist Selection Committee, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 - 148 Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98007, or call 746-2529 for more information. Deadline for applications is **June 30**.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Silverton, Oregon, is seeking an energetic youth-oriented person for a part-time position to work with youth in ministry centered around God's Word and the Sacraments. Contact Immanuel Lutheran Church, 303 N Church St, Silverton, OR 97381; (503) 873-8656 **by June 30**.

Ballard First Lutheran, Seattle, is searching for a part-time **Youth Director** to direct, develop and coordinate the broadest possible ministry with youth of all ages, including Biblical study and enhancement of spiritual growth among the youth. Responsible to the Youth Committee, the Youth Director would also function under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and attend weekly staff meetings and retreats. Salary, benefits and vacation included. Send resume and cover letter **by June 1** to Ballard First Lutheran Church Youth Committee, 2006 NW 65, Seattle, WA 98117.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

If there is anyone in the Lutheran community interested in serving on the Washington State **"Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty"**, please contact Steve Lansing, Director, Lutheran Public Policy of Washington, 623-4389, for further information.

PASTORAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

A **pastor in the Church of Norway** is interested in the possibility of a pastoral exchange with an American colleague the first half of 1993. The arrangement would include an exchange of housing and cars. They are a family fo six. The exchange would include all pastoral duties on a three-person pastoral team, and, of course, fluent Norwegian.

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact the synod office.

MORE WANT ADS

LAY MINISTER POSITION SOUGHT

Li-Li Lin is seeking a position as a lay minister in an Anglo congregation to visit elderly and shut-ins, conduct an education program, and lead Bible study. Li-Li is also interested in congregational multicultural ministry, including, for instance, starting a ministry with college students from Taiwan. Li-Li is fluent in Taiwanese, Mandarin, and English, and is currently living in Berkeley, California. Call the synod office for a copy of her resume.

ORGAN AVAILABLE TO DONATE

Seattle Music is willing to donate a Lowery organ with foot bass pedals and double keyboard. Call Kara at (206) 622-1033.

"NAMING GOD"

submitted by the Committee for the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

In this age of heightened gender awareness, the way we address God is especially important. We need to be aware that several people in each congregation will be offended by male chauvinism in the Church and by language for God that is overly masculine. There is no need to worry that we will no longer be addressing God as Father, Son, or even Lord. There are plenty of masculine references in our daily and Sunday Bible reading, plus, we say the Creed every Sunday. Our Bible, hymns and liturgy offer us enough chances to visualize a male God.

But, for the sake of balance, we offer five suggestions that might help pastors and parishioners on Sunday mornings.

1. When praying, address God in terms other than Father, Son, or Lord. Try being more specific. "God of mercy", "God, who comforts the mourner", "God of all living".

2. After initially addressing or referring to God, try not to refer back to God with a male pronoun. Use "God" instead, even to the point of redundancy.

3. When quoting in sermons from Biblical scholars and theologians, cite from as many women as men.

4. In adult classes, discuss the works of women writers. Find out what they are saying.

5. Avoid using the term "feminist" in a perjorative manner. Remember that many of the things that the Church now teaches as "orthodox" were first condemned as "unorthodox".

6. Stay way from exclusively masculine language when referring to all people.

7. Use the "New Revised Standard Version" of the Bible in public worship.

SYNOD/REGIONAL FAMILY

Please remember in prayer the families of Pastor **Robert Brandenburg**, who passed away in Oregon City, Oregon, and Pastor **Martin Gulhaugen**, who passed away in Tacoma; and Pastor **Jim Schoeld**, whose brother died in Chicago. Remember also Pastor **David Cox**, recovering from extensive sinus surgery, and Pastor **Sonya Johnson**, facing sinus surgery in June . . . We have weddings! Our congratulations and best wishes to Pastor **Chris Scharer** and **Elsie, Sharon Lone** and **John Browder**, and Pastor **Paul Meeker** and **Lorie**, who were all married in May; congratulations also to Pastor **Sheryl Biegert** and **David Boothby** who have announced their engagement, with a September wedding planned . . . **Bethany Lutheran, Bainbridge Island**, dedicated their grounds improvement project with a festive celebration on May 3 . . . **Denny Park Lutheran, Seattle**, has installed a new steeple cross which replaces the one blown off in a windstorm last fall . . . **St. Matthew's Lutheran, Renton**, is now operating an adult day care in the church every Tuesday and Thursday to provide respite for caregivers . . . retired pastor **Bruce Pond** has taken a new job in California. His new address is 1511 Robinson St., Oroville, CA 95965 . . . **Grace Lutheran, Des Moines**, was awarded the **Heifer Project International Church of the Year Award** for its outstanding support in 1991 . . . **Sue Sather**, a member of **Our Saviour's Lutheran, Stanwood**, had an article titled *Clowning with Victoria* published in the April issue of LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY . . . One of these days, ask **Katie Adelman** about her license plate, **IDCDQYR** . . . A group of 17 youth and adults from **Cross of Christ, Bellevue**, and **Holy Spirit, Kirkland**, will journey to Ecuador for a mission work project, leaving June 29. They will also visit with and see the work of Lutheran Bible Translators, **Dale and Lillian Nesse**. Pray for their safety as they travel, and for their mission as they share with other Christians in Ecuador.

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CALENDAR

JUNE

1 Reference & Counsel Committee, St. John, Seattle, 5:30 pm
2 Youth Committee, First, Bothell, 5:00 pm
3 Multicultural Committee, St. John, Seattle, 7:00 pm
4 Call Process Review Task Force, St. John, Seattle, 7:00 pm
6 HEARING ON ELCA HUMAN SEXUALITY STUDY, St. John, Seattle, 9:00 a.m.
10 Interim luncheon
11 SYNOD COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Everett Pacific Hotel, Everett
12-13 SYNOD ASSEMBLY, Everett Pacific Hotel, Everett
12-13 Lutheran World Relief Fest, Radisson Hotel, Seatac
15 Synod office CLOSED
16 Finance Committee, 6:00 pm, Prince of Peace N, Seattle
19-20 Calling/Caring Lab II, Trinity, Lynnwood
27-28 Calling/Caring Lab II, Trinity, Lynnwood
28-Jul 1 LBI Jr Hi Festival of Life

JULY

6-10 LBI Sr Hi Festival of Life
8 Executive Committee, Synod Office, 7:30 a.m.
10-12 Region 1 Women of the ELCA, Cavanaugh's, Spokane

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CALLS ACCEPTED **LP**=Lead Pastor **A**=Associate **Y**=Youth Pastor

Martin P. Dasler	Bethany,Bainbridge Isl	06/21/92
Marvin C. Knutzen	St. John, Bellingham	07/01/92

AIM APPOINTMENT(S) ACCEPTED

None this month

INSTALLATIONS

Martin P. Dasler	Bethany,Bainbridge Isl	06/21/92

ORDINATION(S)

Dennis Cooley (for Central/Southern Illinois Synod)	Phinney Ridge. Seattle	06/14/92

ANNIVERSARIES

Faith, Seattle	50th	05/31/92
St. John, Seattle	25th	06/21/92

RESIGNATION(S)

Marvin C. Knutzen	St. Peter, Clinton	06/30/92

RETIREMENTS

Robert L. Gordon	05/31/92
Gerald N. Hefty	05/01/92
Reuben E. Sorensen	05/31/92

TRANSFER(S) IN/OUT OF SYNOD

None this month

CONGREGATIONS IN CALL PROCESS **NV**=New Vacancy **Int**=Interim **CP**=Congregational Profile **I**=Interviewing **C**=Calling **V**=Vacancy

Bellevue, Holy Cross	I	
Bellingham, St. John	C	
Clinton, St. Peter	NV	
Ferndale, Zion	CP	
Issaquah, Our Savior's (LP)	I	Bob Rolko, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane (LP)	Int	Don Clinton, Interim
Seattle, Lakeridge	Int	Lothar Pletz, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	I	Paul Running, Interim
Startup, Shepherd/Valley	V	
Woodinville, Wooden Cross	C	Sonja Johnson, Interim

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CONGREGATION IS SEEKING A LAY PROFESSIONAL (ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY), PLEASE CONTACT THE SYNOD OFFICE. THANK YOU.